



AMBRIDGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL
Where Learning is an Experience

Silhouette

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Ambridge Area High School

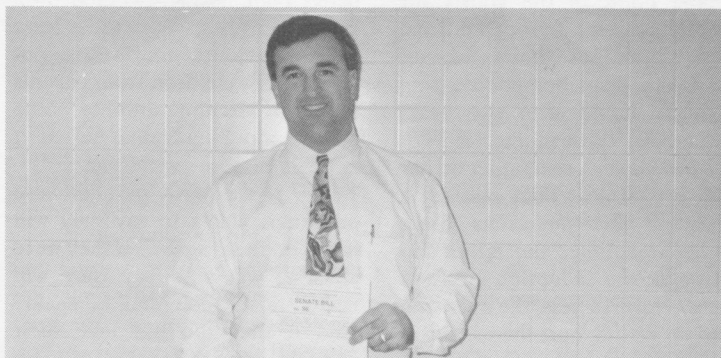
February 1996

New truancy policy will revoke driver's license

by Bonnie Marr

Could you imagine waking up and not feeling like going to school? Well, of course, but do you actually stay home. Under the new truancy policy (Senate Bill no.98, Public School Code) a juvenile can be fined as an adult if found guilty of truancy.

Basically all requirements from the old policy are included, but with the new policy juveniles found guilty of truancy can have their license revoked 90 days for the first offense and six months for the second offense. Mr. Eagle, attendance director/home and school visitor, thinks this will be an effective policy "especially with the drivers' licenses." Under the old policy the parents of the juvenile was fined but now the student, ages 13-17, is directly fined \$300 and/or be forced to do community



Home and School Visitor, Mr. Richard Eagle, displays Senate Bill No. 98 that includes the new truancy policy.

Photo by Joe Kulik

service. They can also be referred to Children and Youth Services as a dependant child.

After three truant days or excessive absences a letter will be sent home to inform the parents of the problem. Any days after the juvenile can be fined. The youth guilty of truancy may also be

assigned adjudication alternative (probation). By the time Mr. Eagle takes a student to court, more than likely the student has been out of school 20 days. Mr. Eagle has been fighting for this policy for some time now. When he first started his position here at Ambridge High School, he started

the truancy diversion program.

This law was effective on January 17, 1996 and replaced a law from 1949. I would assume this law will last just as long, so it is here to stay. This law will only get tougher just like the D.U.I. law and "will always be that way," states Mr. Eagle. Mr. Parry, principal, and Mr. Roman, vice-principal, enthusiastically state "We support this policy 100 percent!" Some students do not feel that way though. Melissa Andoga, senior here at Ambridge, states, "I think this policy is ridiculous!"

Obviously any student who is physically able should attend school, and I personally agree with this policy. Also under these new laws, a juvenile age 14 or older is automatically tried as an adult when he/she commits a crime with

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A new schedule on the "block"

by Katie Madonna

If everyone was just getting used to the idea of O.B.E. being the wave of the future, you ain't seen nothing yet.

The Ambridge Area School District is seriously considering the implementation of block scheduling in as short as a few years.

Most of you are probably wondering what block scheduling is and how it affects you. Well, a 4x4 block, as it is commonly referred to, is a system of four 90-minute periods per day with a one period lunch and a possible "regular" period class in the middle of the day. This would result in a concentrated, college-style curriculum. Classes would be

taken for one semester, and an entirely new set of classes would start with the second semester.

This system has many good points as well as bad.

Some of the high points include allowance of time for group work and individualized instruction, extended time for labs, greater retention of subject matter and, of course, you are rid of a course or instructor you have trouble with after only one semester.

Some major downfalls are evident when a class-by-class break-down is done. Performing groups, such as band and chorus, and electives like newspaper and yearbook would have to be taken both semesters, even if the school does not have a regular one period

class. If a student was in newspaper and band, as many are, and he or she has to take two blocks of electives per semester all through high school, those choices would result in the equivalent to half of that student's total high school credits. Another possibility is that a student simply could not afford to take electives with the concentrated schedule. That may lead to lessened enrollment and teacher cut-backs. Schools such as Fox Chapel have had to cut band to the first semester, cutting the students off from parades or events that occurred after the semester was over. Anyone who wants to participate in band during the second semester would have to treat it as an after-school activity, adding stress on the student as

well as the instructor.

The math department also has valid concerns where block scheduling is involved. As everyone knows, math is learned

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Editorial

What about the children?

by Jaime Cole

"Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to mankind is to bring up a family."

-George Bernard Shaw

Bringing a child into the world is a miracle. To think of the thousands of events that have to occur at the precise timing or the exact moment is mind boggling. When, or if this event of impregnation happens, it should be one of the happiest moments of your life. Sometimes though that is not the case.

I realize that things happen at times. Sometimes you don't use your heads, or you get caught up in the moment. But, regardless whether you are thinking clearly or not, you have to make responsible choices about the innocent unborn child inside of you.

I know that there are situations that are so sticky that it would not be morally right to bring a child into. Maybe abortion is ruled out because you couldn't bear to live with that tremendous guilt for the rest of your life. So you turn toward adoption, which is a healthy alternative because there are thousands of good, loving families looking for a child to nurture each year.

If that is what you are choosing, it is of your own free will, and you must be responsible about it. How could anyone be that careless as to give their child, who is biologically only half theirs, to another family, without so much as discussing the matter with the father? Even if the mother does

not care for her baby's father anymore or never did care about him in the first place, depriving him of the knowledge of his child's existence may be one of the worst things anyone could do to another human being. In 50 percent of adoption cases, the fathers can not be located.

August 2, 1993 was a turning point in the courts for adoption cases. Jessica DeBoer, better known as "Baby Jessica", was taken from her good caring Michigan home after two years because her birth mother did not indicate Jessica's real father on her birth certificate. That case set a precedent for numerous cases after. Sometimes the father did not sign the adoption consent forms. Nevertheless, the ones who wind up getting hurt the worst are the kids.

Time magazine stated, "In custody and adoption suits, courts are guided by law to favor the claims of biological parents unless abandonment, abuse or neglect can be proven." There was a case in 1994 where the mother was on drugs. Her baby was placed in a foster home at the time of birth; the foster parents witnessed the baby being born. After five months and 22 days, the birth mother decided that she no longer wanted her child with the original foster parents. She was declared an unfit mother by the courts, yet she had the power to decide where her child lived. She had 18 months in which to prove she was a "fit" mother. If the courts ruled that she was, she received full custody of the child. What if she

reverted back to drugs a few months later? How are the courts going to make sure that she is not "using" and is taking care of her baby?

The child was stripped from the only home she ever knew- a good home with two parents who would love and take care of the child as if, or maybe better than, he/she was their own. But according to the Iowa Supreme Court, courts "are not free to take children from parents simply by deciding another home offers more advantages." I strongly disagree with that.

If the birth parents were on drugs, who's to say they will never do them again? If they were abusive, who's to say they will never raise their hands again? And if they did not love their children enough to want to raise them when they were born, who's to say they will ever love them the way parents should?

According to a family law specialist, "If a birth mother changes her mind, it's automatic that they get the baby back. Moms who have babies are not in the

best emotional state." That is no excuse. If you are grown-up enough and responsible enough to have sex, then you must be ready to deal with the situations that may occur.

Does anyone ever put the child first? Why is bloodline more important in the eyes of the court than love and stability? Time and time again studies have proven that the environment in which children grow up has a great deal to do with the adult that they become and the actions they will carry out. Do they not realize that if the birth parents are not aware enough to decide whether or not they want to raise their children, they will never be aware enough to take proper care of them.

Children are not toys. They are not yo-yo's to whip back and forth. They are living, breathing things with minds, souls and hearts. You may not squeeze their hearts for everything they are worth or use them to your advantage in any way. You must hold them, protect them, feed them, then sit back and watch them grow.



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The SILHOUETTE is the student newspaper of Ambridge Area High School. It is a laboratory for students pursuing the field of journalism and is designed to serve the total school community.

The SILHOUETTE will be a public forum for the exchange of comment and criticism, open to students, faculty, administration, parents, and others in the school community. The SILHOUETTE is the official school newspaper published once a month at the cost of 25 cents per issue. It is printed by the Record Printing Company of Ambridge.

The editorial opinion is that of the Editorial Board. Any letters to the editor may be submitted to any member of the staff or to the newspaper in Room B-8. Letters received are subject to review by the Board before publication.

Editorial

Like sand through the hourglass...

by Mike Cody

Today I did something that I have not done for far too long. I went to McDonald's, bought a few hamburgers and took them to my grandmother's house so I could eat dinner with her. As we sat and talked, I realized how rarely I take the time just to sit and talk with any member of my family. My grandmother will not live forever. So often, I look past the opportunity to spend time with her. Instead, I sit at home and complain about how I don't have the time to do anything. I think that I sometimes waste most of my time complaining about my lack of time.

Only recently have I seriously thought about a phrase that I have heard many times before: "You have to make time for what is important." It is easy for me to criticize adults who lament the past and how little they have accomplished. But when I look at my own life, I can think of very few important things that I have done. I realize now that I have my entire life ahead of me, but I can only live from day to



day. Instead of trying to see how much I can get done in the week, I should learn how much I can live in one day.

Looking back at most of my failures in life, I see that they all came when I allowed time, or lack of it, to overwhelm me. Often, I have given up trying for what I want simply because I can't find a few minutes time to work towards my goals. My goals could be as complex as writing a contest essay or as simple as calling a friend.

How many friendships have I hurt by not taking a minute to pick up a phone and dial a friend's

number? "Maybe tomorrow," I think. And then tomorrow comes, but still no phone call. Finally, when I get around to calling my friend, how can I answer when he asks me why I didn't call? "Did you lose my number?" he asks. Yes, I did. I've lost many numbers, even though I remember them all.

At the same time, I should not deny myself the time I need. Sometimes I put my dreams and ideas on hold so that I can do mundane but ordinary tasks like finishing homework or going to my job. "I'll finish this later," I tell myself. But motivation is never as

strong the second day. My room is littered with unfinished stories, letters that were never completed and unread books. I often promise myself that I will finish what I have started. Realistically speaking, though, I know that is not to be.

Since I am now in my junior year and graduation is rapidly approaching, I must ask myself what memories of me others will retain after I have left Ambridge High. Am I to be remembered an individual who took a few moments to make someone else's life better? Or will I be known as a person whose time was too "precious" to bother with anyone, even those I call my friends?

I hope I will be remembered as a person who was able to make time for those who were important to him, someone who was able to put his plans on hold for a friend and still achieve his own dreams. And, most importantly, I want to be remembered as someone who never let time separate him from whatever and whomever he held most dear.

Letter to the Editor

If it isn't broke, don't fix it

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in regard to the letters that were submitted by the board and faculty members involved with the O.B.E. plan. As a student, I have missed the new plan, and I regret to say that I find myself extremely fortunate. I simply cannot find any reason why Ambridge would convert to this system. I do not wish to be misunderstood, so I should add that I fully support change and moving on to bigger and better things. However, I also believe in the old adage, "If it isn't broke, don't fix it." I can see adding new departments and classes to thus better prepare Ambridge students for the real world. But, meaning no disrespect, I quite frankly, don't see the point. I feel lucky to be

able to come to Ambridge High and get an education that is second to none. Even though I, like most students, loathe dragging myself out of my nice warm bed five days a week, I take great pride in being fortunate enough to attend A.A.H.S.

I don't believe that Ms. DelGreco's journalistic abilities should be criticized based on an article that was controversial from the get-go. I believe that Ms. DelGreco wrote the article to the best of her ability, despite the runaround and scanty knowledge that was offered to her. If everyone *supposedly* knows all there is to know about this miracle system, I wish someone would explain it to me. Then again, maybe not. After all, I'm just a student. God forbid (can I say

God??) that someone let the student body know what's going on...

Ordinarily, I might give this particular topic little thought, perhaps take some offense (WHAT?! They want to do WHAT to my school?!), and then dismiss it. But, see, my little brother is going to be a freshman next year. He's going to get the Outcome Based Education program when it's in full swing. I have to watch out for him, and I know that he uses some select phrases in regards to O.B.E. I do respect the time and effort that went into creating the program. I also respect the fact that the men and women involved have gone too far to disregard the program. But it's never too late to realize a mistake and make the effort to

right a wrong. And that's what I think that O.B.E. is. A big mistake in massive proportions. So, in closing, I must raise the suggestion that maybe, just maybe, Ms. DelGreco wasn't so far off the mark. Is O.B.E. really a change for the better?

Sincerely,
Leah B. Malloy

Got a letter for the Silhouette?

If you have any questions or comments for the staff of the *Silhouette* or would like to respond to an article or editorial, send a letter to room B8 or give it to a staff member. Your letters help to make the *Silhouette* a paper the school can be proud of.

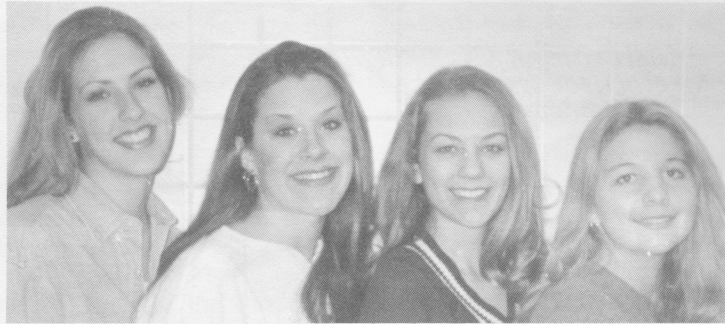
Thanks!!!

Beaver County Junior Miss honors local young women

by Laurie Miller

One of the little known ways for girls who are high school juniors to compete for scholarships is through the Beaver County Junior Miss Scholarship Program. This program "seeks to recognize, reward and encourage excellence among young people by focusing attention on the achievements of outstanding college bound young women and the presentation of scholarships to the top honorees," according to its sponsor, the Beaver Area Jaycees. Many scholarships are rewarded to those that score well on their evaluations. Several juniors at Ambridge have been fortunate enough to have been chosen as finalists.

The Beaver County Junior Miss Scholarship Program is a local competition for America's Junior Miss Scholarship Program, held in Mobile, Alabama each year. Initially, the program was started in 1958. In 1989, its name was changed to America's Young Woman of the Year. In 1993 the original name was again used. Each year, more than 26,000



Pictured above are the Ambridge Area H.S. representatives in the Beaver County Junior Miss competition. They include from left to right: Marie Persi, Lesley Smith, Cheryl Andoga and Jaime Cole.
Photo by Joe Kulik

women enter this competition. More than 1,200 winners participate in the state finals. These fifty finalists advance to the nationals.

Contestants are judged on their panel evaluation, scholastic achievement, creative and performing arts, fitness and presence-composure. In the panel evaluation, which is 25 percent of the total score, the judges look for perception, moral values, expression and concern for human relations. Scholastic achievement, worth 20 percent, is simply the review of grades and S.A.T. or ACT scores. Creative and

performing arts (25 percent) are judged completely on the talent portion of the contest. Fitness and presence-composure, both worth 15 percent, are basically posture, poise and communication skills.

In order to try out for Beaver County Junior Miss, a junior girl had to complete an application and attend a preliminary interview on January 7.

Thirty semi-finalists were chosen to return to compete in an interview and talent portion. After narrowing the list down, twenty finalists were asked to

return to compete on March 30. All girls selected were required to attend practice sessions each week at Paula Scriva Dance Studio to rehearse. When interviewed, several finalists concurred that it required a great amount of dedication to practice two times a week for an event two months in advance. Cheryl Andoga, a finalist, found the program to be a positive experience because, "We have made a lot of friendships that will last a long time and it will make me a better public speaker." Another finalist, Jaime Cole, hoped the experience would teach her "self-esteem and self-confidence."

More than \$5.4 million in scholarships and awards will be given away this year. Cash scholarships and college scholarships totalling \$17,000 were awarded to contestants in Beaver County last year. Marie Persi, Cheryl Andoga, Jaime Cole and Lesley Smith are the finalists from Ambridge competing for these awards. Hopefully one of them will be the lucky winner at the finals, held at Hopewell High School on March 30, 1996.

Student Council attends national conference

by Carole Bunting

Four members of the Ambridge Area High School Student Council are planning to attend the NASC (National Association of Student Councils) Area Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference is going to be held March 1-3, 1996, at the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel.

NASC Area Conferences are weekend meetings designed to strengthen leadership skills and to enhance interstate communication among student leaders and advisors. Mr. David Kielbowick, Student Council advisor, said, "You (students) get a chance to meet kids from all across the central Eastern seaboard."

The members going on the trip are required to pay their own registration and hotel fees. The cost for each student is

approximately \$125. The students are using their own funds since the Student Council is not helping out, and Mr. Kielbowick is going to provide the transportation. The following four people are representing Ambridge Area High School at the conference: Neil Balcer, senior; Mike Colonna, junior; Kristi Pederson, junior; and corresponding secretary Rob Svitek, senior.

When asked why she was going to the NASC Conference, Kristi Pederson answered, "I went to the state conference and I wanted to see what a national conference would be like and hoped to see my friends from leadership camp."

When asked what he hoped to learn from his upcoming experience at the NASC Conference, Neil Balcer said, "Leadership and teamwork."



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Nestle--so much more than chocolate

by Emily DelGreco

It seems as though everyone, everywhere participated in the recent Steeler superbowl craze. Millions of people bought, watched and ate their way to January 28. But within this mass of Steeler-hungry fans was the smaller, more formal Steeler raffle in the Ambridge Area School District cafeterias.

Almost every month, without fail, the cafeteria staff of A.A.H.S. will try to do at least one "special" thing to the school lunch menu. Whether it be a special holiday-shaped food, surveys or a small giveaway, the staff is constantly trying to build participation in the school lunch program. Mrs. Janet Giammaria is Food Service Director of the cafeteria, plans all menus and purchases the food for these



Pictured above are the winners of the Nestle sponsored cafeteria raffle. Standing from left to right: Sophomore Nick Hartman, Food Service Director Mrs. Giammaria, Sophomore Emily Taylor and Senior Rob Svitek.

In November, Mrs. Giammaria set out to buy food for the January menu from large wholesalers. One of these wholesalers, the Nestle company,

approached Mrs. Giammaria with an offer perfect for the Superbowl month.

Mr. Bob Monte is the Nestle representative Mrs. Giammaria works with. He offered Ambridge Area School District a number of Steeler-themed prizes if they agreed to purchase a certain amount of Nestle products. Nestle produces, contrary to popular opinion, much more than chocolate. The high school menu currently includes Nestle nacho cheese sauce, mashed potatoes and spaghetti sauce in its lunch menu.

Because Mrs. Giammaria agreed to the offer, Ambridge Area School District received a Steeler helmet phone (valued at \$280), an autographed gift certificate for Woodson's All-Star Grill (valued at \$26), a ten pound bar of Nestle's Crunch (valued at \$40) and five Steeler tee-shirts. Two of the tee-shirts, along with the Nestle's Crunch, were sent to the Ambridge Area Junior High, where a smaller raffle was held.

Beginning January 24 at the high school, every student purchasing a school lunch received a numbered raffle ticket. This continued until January 26. Winners were chosen from those who had received tickets during that time. Winners are as follows: Nick Hartman and Rob Svitek, tee-shirts and Emily Taylor, Woodson's gift certificate. The Steeler helmet phone and a tee-shirt have yet to be claimed.

It was pure luck that A.A.H.S. was able to receive these prizes from Nestle. Keystone Oaks and Penn Hills are the only other school districts in the Beaver/Allegheny County area participating in this promotion. Mrs. Giammaria hopes that we may again be fortunate enough to receive such a generous offer but doubts that it could happen in the very near future. "I don't think I could be that fortunate," she says.

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Truancy Policy

Continued from front page

a deadly weapon. Also if you are 15 or older you can also be tried as an adult if you commit a second-offense felony. This law is here to stay, so if you think your can't be caught...guess again.

Memorable Photography By Walter Sickles

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Club Beats

PRIDE

by Erin McBroom

The P.R.I.D.E. club's artistic abilities have been displayed at all of this year's basketball games. The students have been painting the signs for this year.

ADAPT AAC

by Carole Bunting

ADAPT had auditions for their play on drug and alcohol prevention after school on Wednesday, January 31, 1996. This play was written by former students. ADAPT members also attended a country-wide dance

with teen leadership kids at Center Stage in Monaca. The dance was held on Saturday, February 3, 1996. The tickets were five dollars and the proceeds went towards teen leadership activities. ADAPT had a candy sale to raise money for the club. ADAPT would like to go to Harrisburg for the Pennsylvania Aware Conference. The conference is about leadership and drug and alcohol prevention.

AAC

by Mike Dwyer

The Afro-American Club is in high gear this month, meeting once during regularly scheduled activity periods and also in special after school sessions.

February is National Black History Month, and AAC members will be celebrating this by announcing various anecdotes

about African-American heroes. The idea is to give students insight into the history of Afro-Americans in the United States.

Mrs. Campbell, sponsor, would like to stress that "The AAC is not strictly for African-American students. All new members are welcome."

Student Council

by Laurie Miller

Sign ups for auditions for the talent show, sponsored by Student Council, were held in early February. After school on February 7, try-outs for dance, music, comedy acts and skits were held. The talent show will be held on March 8. Members of the Student Council are encouraged to sign up for the ticket committee.

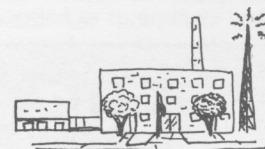
There was also a fundraiser held titled "Bunches of Kisses."

Some of the members of Student Council are undertaking the updating of its constitution, which is sure to continue well into March.

ARC

by Mike Cody

On January 23, senior Tracy Mazur received her novice license and the callsign KB3BMQ. The Bridger Amateur Radio Club has spent the past few weeks practicing morse code and working towards getting their novice licenses. The club would also like to remind students that it is still accepting new members.



Block Scheduling

Continued from front page

by building upon what you have already mastered and practiced. Mrs. Cole pointed out that homework would have to be done during class before everyone could be prepared to move on the next concept, thus losing a lot of teaching time. She also stated that a student would ideally take two core courses per semester (i.e. math and English, first semester; social studies and science, second semester), replicating a normal school year. The catch is that there is "no guaranteed sequence of courses." A student could take Algebra I in the first semester of ninth grade and not take Algebra II until the second semester of tenth grade. Just try to imagine what you would forget over that time span when compared to what you would forget over the summer.

Absenteeism is almost impossible under these circumstances. A field trip of the flu could set you back days or weeks. not to mention that tests

and assignments would have to be made up after school or on Saturday because you would be missing even more if you tried to catch up in class.

Although 10 minutes would be allowed for social interaction between classes, it is very plausible to me that it would be very easy to get "burnt out" on a class after one and a half hours. I personally start to twitch after 40 minutes. Classes are to be divided into distinct sections, though. Classes would include divisions such as lecture, group work and individualized instruction.

Mr. Aloe, head of the music department, feels that a lot more research needs to be conducted. He also stated, "New isn't always good," a phrase that must be crossing the minds of some A.A.S.D. teachers. But for now, A.A.H.S. is keeping an eye on Center High School, which is implementing the 4x4 block next year.



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★★★★★ Music Review

by Doug Costa

They have never been on MTV. You have never heard them on The Force. They are not from Seattle. They are simply a band. A very good band. The best band I know that no one has ever heard of. They are the Velvet Underground.

After Lou Reed left the band in 1970, after just three years, the group's run was effectively over. However, this group was not like others. The velvets actually became MORE popular after their break-up. This is evidenced by the recent release of *The Velvet Underground-Peel Slowly and See*, a definitive five-volume boxed set of the band's four studio albums, an early demo tape and countless other demo, live and unreleased songs.

The demo tape was recorded before the band's first studio album, and it leads this set. It presents songs from that debut album in an entirely new light--acoustic with harmonica. The tape has the feel of early Bob Dylan, though the subject matter is definitely different from a Dylan album.

The first album, *The Velvet Underground and Nico*, is probably one of the birthplaces of music that defies conventional trends and blazes its own trail. This is music that is truly alternative. Before you Green Day fans rush to buy this, let me say that I do not mean

Bridger Review

that is "alternative music" in the Offspring sense; rather, I mean that it is alternative to nearly anything you have ever heard. The album takes you to the depths of the human soul with songs such as "Heroin", "I'm Waiting for the Man" and "Venus in Furs". "Heroin", a journey through the heart and soul of a drug addict, most clearly shows the Velvets two personalities: thoughtfully reflective and, in a matter of seconds, louder and grittier than Nine Inch Nails. This is where you can begin to see how important this band is.

The third disc, *White Light/White Heat*, focused on the band's dark side almost exclusively. There are only three words I can describe this album with: REALLY, REALLY, LOUD! "I Heard Her Call My Name" and the two-chord, 17-minute "Sister Ray" take rock to limits that had probably never been explored prior to this album. The songs are, quite simply, so driving that they will probably echo around in your head long after the album ends. Ironically, the previously unreleased songs on this disc are particularly mellow. However, the six songs that make up the studio album will more than serve to counteract that. If you enjoy heavy, guitar riff-based music, *White Light/White Heat* is the album for you. Did I mention that the music is really loud?

The bands final two albums, *The Velvet Underground* and *Loaded*, represent a complete 180-degree turn from the first two albums. Both of these albums put less attention on experimentation

and more attention on good, solid songs. These are the albums for people who don't even like The Velvet Underground. With songs such as "Sweet Jane" (restored full length version), "What Goes On" and "Pale Blue Eyes", the listener is left with the feeling that Lou Reed and company might not have been depressed ALL of the time. Besides, "After Hours" alone proves that there is innocence to be found in everyone.

Basically, the Velvets were three separate bands, depending on which album you listen to. I must say that I am sure that at least one of these albums would appeal to anyone, regardless of your musical tastes. And, if your tastes are truly varied and exploratory, this boxed set receives my highest recommendation.

★★★★★ Movie Review

by Melissa Lewis

Mr. Holland's Opus, starring Richard Dreyfus and Glenn Headly, is sure to be one of the best films of 1996.

Glen Holland (Dreyfus) is a struggling musician and aspiring composer who decides to make use of his "fall back" degree as a high school music teacher to support his wife, Iris (Headly), and himself. In the first five months of his career, he viewed himself as just another teacher, going to work day in and day out. But on one of those ordinary days he saw that he had made a difference in one student's life. He had inspired her. For the next 30 years, he inspired many more students every day.

Of course, there is a conflict. What is a movie without one? Holland continually struggles with his overwhelming love of music and the fact that his son can't hear even a note of the music that he loves so much.

This movie is superbly directed and the performances are dynamic. The film is also quite *Forrest Gump*-esque as it shows historical memoirs from the sixties to the nineties. For anyone who is a teacher or administrator, this is



a must-see; it enforces the idea that just by taking a little of your time to show you care and maybe even take a different approach to teaching, you can make a tremendous impact and be quite an inspiration to many students.

★★★★★ Book Review

by Nicole Webb

China Cry is the autobiography of a woman who refuses to succumb to the communistic ways of the Japanese who invade China in the late 1930s.

Nora Lam writes of how she was so horribly and inhumanely treated by communist party officials. At one point she was sentenced to be executed by a firing squad, regardless of the fact that she was five months pregnant. How she survives this and other ordeals is the backbone of this riveting story.

China Cry is an excellent book. It really opens your eyes to just how cruel men can be to one another. The way Nora suffered is heart wrenching. As I was reading, I had to keep reminding myself that it was a true story.

I recommend this book to all. If you are interested in *China Cry*, but do not have time to read, then I would suggest the video of the same name. It is available for rent.

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Musicians take center stage

by Melissa Smoley

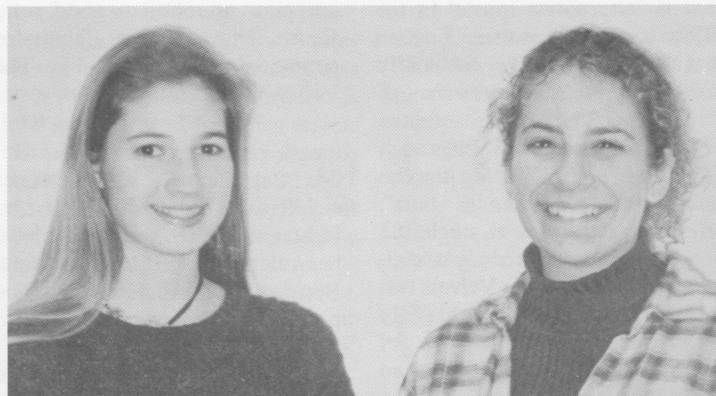
Melissa Andoga and Laura McMullen, both seniors, are two very talented individuals deserving praise and recognition for their musical accomplishments throughout the years.

Melissa has been interested in music since the third grade. Besides playing the piano and taking lessons, she is also a percussionist. She plays the quads in marching band, mallets for concert band and is a member of the steel drum ensemble.

She has not yet decided on which college she would like to attend but plans to major in the piano and study the field of music therapy.

Melissa has been a member of musical organizations, in school as well as out of school, such as marching band, symphonic band, steel drum ensemble, Beaver County Honors Band, Grove City Band, District Five Band and Regional Band.

When asked if she enjoyed being a member of these organizations, she replied, "Yes, I



Standing from left to right are seniors Laura McMullen and Melissa Andoga
Photo by Missy Smoley

have a lot of fun and get to meet new people. I really enjoy being around other people who are dedicated. We don't have to put as much time into the little things, so we can spend more time on how the music is supposed to feel, not just getting the right notes." She also stated that Mr. Zana, the Ambridge Band percussion teacher, has been a major influence over her musical career. And because of his patience, determination and love of music, he has helped her to become a

better musician.

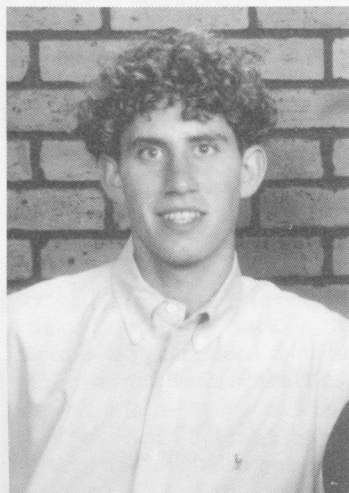
Laura McMullen, a seven year band student, has played several different instruments, including the French horn, Mellophone and valve trombone. Although she is unsure as to whether or not she will continue her musical career, she has considered majoring in the professional horn and playing for a symphony. Laura has been a member of the marching band, symphonic band, pep band, jazz band, steel drum ensemble, Abbey

Brass, Beaver County Wind Ensemble, Carnegie Mellon Brass Ensemble, Beaver County Honors Band, District Five Band and Regional Band.

Laura has enjoyed her experiences with these groups; they have given her the opportunity to play as a group and learn about technique and basic music knowledge. She owes a great deal of her success to her two private lesson teachers, Pam Coldonato and Dennis Abelson, who have helped her to become a fine musician.

When asked her opinion on Ambridge's music program, she replied, "It is very strong compared to those of other schools. Ambridge offers many programs that aren't available in other districts, such as jazz band and steel drums; however, the interest is fading. More and more people each year are in band only for the trip. The only way to rebuild the program is to rebuild the interest."

Matt Curry excels on and off court



by Jeremy Freeman

The sports spotlight this month is on Matt Curry. Matt has a 3.7 GPA and is considering a future in engineering. While Matt has looked at Pitt-Johnstown, he is undecided about which college he

will attend.

Matt Curry, our starting senior point guard at Ambridge, chose to play basketball this season because of his love of the game. When asked why he thought the basketball team is in such a slump, he said, "After we lost a few games, everyone lost the winning attitude." Matt doesn't know if he'll pursue basketball in college. Matt's best moment in basketball was going 2-0 to start out section play with one point loss to North Allegheny.

Matt is a setter for the varsity volleyball team. He feels that the Bridgers' toughest opponent last year was Montour. That's why beating Montour and Farrell were the highlights of his volleyball career. Matt's worst moment in volleyball was losing to North Allegheny in the W.P.I.A.L playoffs.

Although Matt's favorite

teacher is Mr. Pournaras, and his hero is Barry Sanders of the Detroit Lions, the person who has the biggest influence on Matt's life is his older brother. While Matt plays basketball and volleyball for the Bridgers, one outside activity he enjoys is sand volleyball. His other hobbies include stamp collecting, bingo, jewelry making and country line-dancing. Besides

playing volleyball and basketball, Matt is active in the Math League and Documentary Film Club. One sport Matt would like to try some day is water polo.

In five years, Matt sees himself on the beach playing volleyball. Well, Matt, good luck to you in the upcoming volleyball season. See you on the beach!

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Football players honored at annual banquet

by Melissa Lewis

On January 21, the 1995 Ambridge Area High School football team, varsity and junior varsity cheerleading squads were honored at a banquet held at Fran-Zee's in Ambridge. More specifically, three senior football players were awarded for their abilities.

Mike An was the recipient of the Abe Deep Scholastic Award. The award is given to a senior football player who has displayed superior academic excellence. Mike has played on the defensive line for Ambridge since the seventh grade. Besides playing football, he has been involved in Student Council, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class, Documentary Film Club, Technology Students Association, The Engineering Explorer Post and is a volunteer for the Big Brother/Big Sister Organization.



Pictured left to right, senior award recipients Ken Carlisle, Mike An and Mike Szabo.

Photo by Joe Kulik

Academically, Mike is a member of Who's Who Among American High School Students, The National Honor Roll, and attended Keystone Boys State. This past summer, Mike attended Carnegie Mellon University's Advanced Placement/Early Admission Program for six weeks where he earned 19 credits that will be used towards a degree. After graduation, Mike wishes to attend a major university and attain a master's degree in computer engineering.

Ken Carlisle and Mike Szabo were awarded the Joseph Hlista Award for backs and linemen. The recipients of the awards are the most valuable backs and linemen chosen by their teammates. Ken Carlisle, who was awarded the Joseph Hlista Award for back, has been playing football since second grade, beginning with the Li'l Bridgers. He then moved on to the Junior High team in the eighth grade. He lettered on the high school team on which he played quarterback and defensive

back. Ken was named all-conference second team defensive back as a junior, all-conference first team quarterback as a senior and was selected to play in the 1995 Austen Foundation All-Star Football Classic.

Mike Szabo, who received the Joseph Hlista Award for lineman, began his football career in third grade with the Economites. He has played for the Ambridge School District since the seventh grade. On the high school level, he has been a three year varsity starter playing offensive lineman and defensive middle linebacker. Szabo was also selected to play in the 1995 Austen Foundation All-Star Football Classic and received honorable mention for volleyball in 1994 WPIAL section.

Both Szabo and Carlisle plan to attend a four-year college or university and continue in athletics while obtaining a degree.

Student teacher chose music as her pathway



Photo by Rob Klaich
by Peggy Madonna

"I wanted to do everything else in the world!" says Miss Klco, the new student teacher in the music department. Surprisingly, teaching music was not Miss Klco's plan for the future until her junior year in college. "I thought I was going to be a lawyer; I thought that I was going to go into medicine until I worked in a hospital and hated it! I thought I was going to be a counselor, travel all around the world and at one point I wanted to go to London to study historical philosophy. I had no clue!"

Miss Klco is a 1992 graduate of Elizabeth Bell High School, Maryland and is currently a senior at Duquesne College. Ambridge High School is just one of her assignments that is used to help her to learn by getting experience in teaching. When asked how she hopes to benefit from her time, Miss Klco says, "I already have! It's been really, really great! All of the music teachers here are the best at what they do, and the kids are really fun to work with."

Miss Klco says that this is a totally different experience than being in school because when you are in school you learn how to make music, but you don't really learn about dealing with people such as teachers, the administration and interacting with students. Even though the size of the band is overwhelming at first, Miss Klco says, "It's easy to be comfortable, it is really relaxed and there no point that I was uncomfortable, even with the faculty--they just want to have a good time."

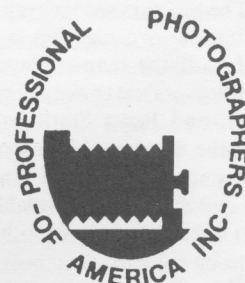
As a music education major Miss Klco had to learn to

play every instrument, and she also can play the piano and organ, but she was first exposed to something new a Ambridge. "Steel drums are something totally new to me. I'm a percussionist, but I had never played a steel drum before. It's just amazing all the stuff you have here!"

"Mr. Aloe lets me watch him and then says, O.K., do it. He tells me what he would do, but also wants me to be myself when I'm teaching. Making my own mistakes is good," says Mrs. Klco.

The thing that surprised Miss Klco most upon her arrival was the size of the band. "When I saw all 210 of them practicing together I said, 'Mr. Aloe, I don't have to conduct this band do I?' With a really strong music department, it is always going to be crazy. He (Mr. Aloe) handles it so well!"

Says Miss Klco, "Ambridge students are really open, I didn't expect it, but it seems like everyone is having a really good time with music. They're great; they are just themselves."



Cliff

Roehn

Photography

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Hard work; team play exemplifies basketball program

by Bryan Hooks

The Ambridge varsity boys' basketball team has had a promising season, considering that they are in a very tough section, including New Castle, Butler and N.A.

Nevertheless, with an 11-9 record and only four games remaining, chances for a playoff run are slim to none. This season has sparked a lot of enthusiasm for boys basketball. Mr. Meddock, the head coach, appreciates all of the enthusiasm from the fans, the cheerleaders, the Bridger Brigade,

the school, the administration, the school board and the superintendent.

Going into the season, Coach Meddock and his squad hoped to be competitive, to play hard, get the recognition they deserve and also to upset some teams along the way.

As of right now, Coach Meddock is happy with the way his team has performed so far. His goal for the rest of the season is to get back on the winning track and to hopefully upset a few teams down the stretch.

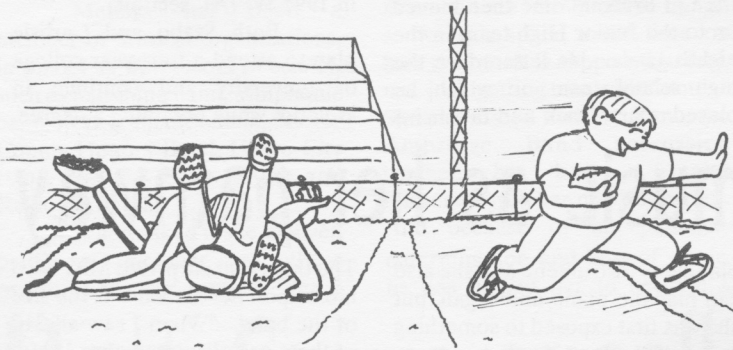
Coach Meddock is proud

of his team for their team efforts. He feels they work together. The players called team meetings, and they motivate each other. Therefore, Coach Meddock can't just name one or two players who deserve credit. All of them are capable, team ball players. When asked if any players have surprised him Coach Meddock said, "No, not really. I knew that with these athletes, on any given night they can perform well."

Mr. Meddock plans to coach next year. He feels that the team is going to have to work hard because they are going to lose a

lot of seniors next year. He plans to have his players take a month off after the season. After that, they will start weightlifting and running. Also, they will play many summer games to prepare them for the 96-97 season. Also, Mr. Meddock still hopes everyone comes out and supports the team because he feels enthusiasm keeps the players more confident. Coach Meddock's idea of the Bridger Brigade and the student buses to road games have helped keep his team on a winning track.

The Steelers' recipe for success



by Rich Dugan

The Pittsburgh Steelers fought the Dallas Cowboys on January 28 in Tempe, Arizona for the right to be called National Football League Champions. Of course, you all ready know they lost, 27-17, unless you have been comatose for the past month and the first thing you decided to do is pick up the latest copy of the *Silhouette*.

The question has to be asked, why will next year be different? The Pittsburgh Steelers must wonder if they are doomed to being the next Buffalo Bills. A team that's the best in the lesser conference but never good enough to capture the coveted Lombardi Trophy. The Steelers fate has not yet been sealed, as there are three ways that will lead the "one for the thumb."

The Pittsburgh Steelers must re-sign Neil O'Donnell and

Leon Searcy. O'Donnell did throw the critical Super Bowl interception, but can his life in Steel Town really end because of one poorly thrown pass? He is a great quarterback and will lead this team to a Super Bowl championship. As for Searcy, he is one season away from reaching the ranks of best in the league. Allowing him to leave will set the Steelers back three years.

The Steelers second way of revitalizing the organization is to cut the fat off the team. Players like Mike Tomzack, Tom Newberry, and Rohn Stark have hindered the Steelers this season. Replacements that are more talented and cheaper are available. This also frees up money for other players to be signed.

The third strategy the Steelers should implement is increased use of Mark Bruener, the starting tight end. The Steelers would put themselves in

the top five offenses with the ability to threaten the defense in multiple ways.

The Pittsburgh Steelers are not far from being world champions. This team was only

one play away from the promised land. The afore mentioned moves will give that one play. Barring any strange occurrences, Super Bowl XXXI will have the same teams, but a much different outcome.

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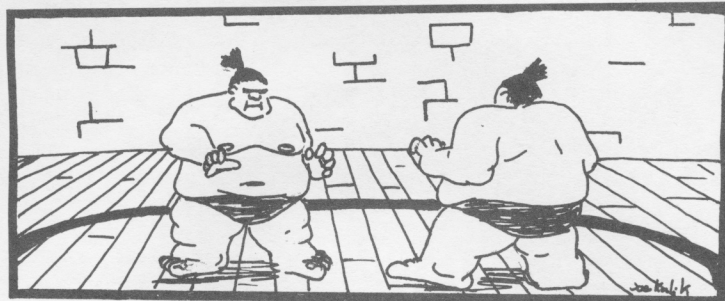
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Desire to win fuels wrestling team

by Bryan Hooks

This year has been a year of reform for the Ambridge-Quigley wrestling team.

The wrestling team's record is 2-7. This year, the wrestling squad is full, unlike last year, in which there were eight wrestlers with no matches won. The wrestling team has five matches left. Captains Rob Mawhinney (13-9) and Bob Jahoda (16-6) feel that this was a good year. They feel the team should pull out a few more wins this season. Rob Mawhinney is looking forward to the match against Sewickley Academy. They



are an upcoming rival. Rob feels the team is wrestling better as a whole.

On January 26-27, the Ambridge-Quigley wrestling team participated in the Montour Tournament, which was a success. Five wrestlers placed in the

competition. They were as follows: Bob Jahoda, 2nd place; Steve Smith, 3rd place; Bob Wolf, 3rd place; Rob Mawhinney, 4th place; and Josh Solt, 4th place.

When asked why he feels the wrestling team has such a low record, Rob Mawhinney said, "The

main reason is the lack of experienced wrestlers. Most of the team this year consists of freshmen and sophomores. I feel the team is definitely improving and their desire to win makes up for their inexperience." When asked how the season has gone, Rob ended with, "This season has definitely been a learning experience for the team. We have a lot of new kids and have time to progress." Rob feels that with this new, young squad, the Ambridge-Quigley wrestling team will be successful in the future.

Girls' Basketball--rebuilding for tomorrow

by Mike Dwyer

Another season of Ambridge girls' basketball is winding down, and once again the Lady Bridgers have struggled. With an overall record of 2-40 over the past two seasons, the Lady Bridgers have been the victims of injuries and inexperience. Of the 22 teams in the area, Ambridge was 18th in team offense and 21st in team defense through January 25. As of this writing, Ambridge had an overall record of 1-18, 0-9 in the powerful section 3-Quad A.

When asked why the team

had struggled so much for the past two seasons, sophomore point guard Tiffany Taylor said, "...probably our youth, because we have not played together enough." In fact, the team did not have a single senior. Another major downfall was injuries. Junior Stephanie Szabo missed six games, Taylor, three and freshman reserve Kristy Neese, four.

There are definitely reasons for Coach Tom Cvitkovic to be optimistic about the future of girls' basketball at Ambridge. First of all, the team will be dropping down to Class AAA, which will help alleviate the

enormous pressure of facing Herculean opposition such as North Allegheny and Shaler night after night. The team also has several blocks they can build upon. Szabo and Taylor both pour in around 10 points per game, with Szabo adding leadership and Taylor providing a much needed threat from behind the arc. Also impressive was 5'11" freshman Lauren Wozniak, the team leader in rebounds. She chipped in with about eight points a game and

gave the team a force on the boards. Other contributing factors were junior Kenisha Carlisle and sophomores Jeannette Guido and Heidi Vukocan. The junior high team has also had a strong season, so they can look forward to more talented underclassmen. With a little luck, this is a team that could make it to the playoffs next year. Taylor seems confident when looking towards the future. "We'll win a lot more games next year. I promise you that."

Hockey team looks to improve

by Mike Kristufek

Although it was not the best year, the Ambridge hockey team looks back with a little Bridger Pride. The team has made its mistakes, and now it's time to look to improve.

Not to make excuses for poor playing, but there were some players that missed several games due to injury or suspension. Coach Miller made the observation that this team gives a solid performance in the first period, and then the inexperience shows. However, he had hoped for improvement and he saw it.

Just like the other Ambridge teams, the hockey team enjoys a Senior Night. The night

of the last home game, February 5, they introduced all team members. This includes varsity, the freshmen team and the developmental team. The developmental team is made up of younger students in grades 4, 5 and 6 that show an interest in hockey.

There is a positive outlook for the future. Robert Ryms said, "Next year we'll do better. We're looking forward to new players and a better season. We hope to add on as the years go by." Coach Miller noted they did their best and through all of their inexperience, they did a lot of good things. Also mentioning their desire for help, Ryms added, "If anyone wants to play, we can use them."



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